

VLK 3/11/01

NAPP LISTING

7/13/01

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Propertyhistoric name James City Historic Districtother names/site number DHR File No. 056-5011**2. Location**street & number U.S. Route 29not for publication NAcity or town Madisonvicinity xstate Virginiacode VAcounty Madisoncode 113Zip 22701**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this _____ nomination _____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property x meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _____ nationally _____ statewide ✓ locally. (____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official

Date

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. (____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

____ entered in the National Register

____ See continuation sheet.

____ determined eligible for the

National Register

____ See continuation sheet.

____ determined not eligible for the National Register

____ removed from the National Register

____ other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

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National Park Service

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- ☐ building(s)
☒ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u> 14 </u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u> 14 </u>	<u> </u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)Cat: Domestic Sub: Single Dwelling

<u>Commerce/Trade</u>	<u>Specialty Store</u>
<u>Agriculture</u>	<u>Agricultural Outbuilding</u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)Cat: Domestic Sub: Single Dwelling

<u>Agriculture</u>	<u>Agricultural Outbuilding</u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

☐ No Style _____

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation ☐ Stone _____
roof ☐ Metal _____
walls ☐ Wood _____
other ☐ Wood _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

☐ Architecture _____
☐ Commerce _____

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Period of Significance ___ ca. 1796 to 1940s ___

Significant Dates _1796_
 1810
 1822

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation _____

Architect/Builder _____ Unknown _____

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- ___ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
___ previously listed in the National Register
___ previously determined eligible by the National Register
___ designated a National Historic Landmark
___ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
___ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
___ Other

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property _Approx. 280A_

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing
1 17 749840 4257980 2 17 750360 4258660
3 17 750560 4257540 4 17 750680 4256620
___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

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Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Roberta C. Kerr and Christopher C. Kerr

Organization: _____ date November 29, 2000_

street & number: 1014 Aquia Drive _____ telephone 540-659-7536 _____

city or town Stafford _____ state VA zip code 22554 _____

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Olivia and Emily Bruce _____

street & number RFD 3, Box 122-1 _____ telephone 540-547-2609 _____

city or town Culpeper _____ state VA zip code 22701 _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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7. Summary Description:

The James City Historic District contains a group of fourteen late-eighteenth-, early-to-late-nineteenth-, and early-twentieth-century commercial, residential, and agricultural buildings and is located on a 280-acre tract of land to the east and south of U.S. Route 29 on the Madison/Culpeper County line. The commercial buildings include two stores, a tavern and a blacksmith shop. There are two houses, one of which was used as a school at one time. Agricultural buildings comprise the remainder of the structures. The commercial and residential buildings face each other across what is now a farm lane, but was originally the Kirtley or Fredericksburg Road. The agricultural buildings are scattered throughout the adjoining fields. The Fredericksburg Road was a main road from Fredericksburg to Madison County and the tavern at James City was a stop on a stagecoach line. It appears that the first buildings date from the late 1700s and that the last ones were built in the 1940s. The buildings are all wooden structures and, while some of the buildings are in disrepair and additions have been made over the years, the basic integrity of each one has remained intact. Only one residence is occupied at this time and several of the agricultural buildings are being used on a minimal basis.

Architectural Analysis

The James City property comprises approximately 280 acres to the east and south of U.S. Route 29 in Madison County. The northern boundary of the property lies on Crooked Run, which is also the dividing line between Culpeper and Madison counties, and the western boundary borders State Route 631. Both commercial and residential buildings are found on either side of a farm lane that runs east-west from the junction of Routes 631 and 29. The commercial buildings consist of two stores, a tavern and a blacksmith shop. One of the two residences was formerly used as a school and the other is now occupied by the Bruce family. The rest of the buildings are agricultural structures and they are scattered throughout the fields. The farm lane was originally the main road leading from Fredericksburg to Madison County. It was referred to as the Kirtley Road or Fredericksburg Road and was used as an early stage coach route. Local tradition says that the tavern at James City was a stop on the way.

The largest building on the north side of the Fredericksburg Road and the one closest to Route 29 is actually four buildings that were built at different times and have been joined or enclosed. A smaller building, a few hundred yards to the east, was a blacksmith shop. It appears that originally

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there were two buildings on the site of the larger structure; a late-eighteenth-century wooden one-story house and a wooden one-story kitchen. Then prior to 1817 a wooden two-story double-pile tavern was built between the two buildings and abutting the east wall of the earlier house. In the mid-1800s the kitchen was joined to the structure by a western addition to the tavern. The original eighteenth-century building on the west end was enclosed in a remodeling sometime during the mid-to-late nineteenth century when it became a store. The cladding on the entire structure varies from wide beaded boards to flat boards with both cut and wire nails intermixed on all structures suggesting repair and later additions and/or residing. Since the sections of the building were constructed at different times for different purposes and with different architectural features, each section will be discussed separately and will hereafter be referred to as the store, tavern and kitchen wing.

STORE

The store, which faces east and comprises the west wing, is a one-story, rectangular, gable-fronted structure with a shed addition on the south side of the building. It has a stone foundation and a partial stone-walled cellar that is reached by a dugout dirt stairwell behind a door on the north side of the building. The cellar has the same outline as the eighteenth-century structure and most likely was a part of that house. There are two bays on the north elevation, four on the west elevation and three on the south elevation. The east elevation abuts the tavern and no features are visible. The windows on all elevations are rectangular with wooden frames and wooden sills. The single first-floor window on the north elevation and the two on the west elevation are six-over-six single-hung sash and are covered with wooden shutters. Three windows on the south elevation are asymmetrically placed and all have different trim suggesting that they were added at different times. There are three doorways, one on the north elevation which leads to the cellar and two on the west elevation which lead into the store and the shed addition. The doors are all wooden. The door to the cellar stairway on the north wall consists of vertical boards with wire nails and a hasp lock. There is also a board-and-batten door with a handle and several old keyholes in the cellar wall. Double doors with two panels lead into the store on the west wall and the shed addition door has six flat panels. There are no doors on the south wall. A square, six-light stairwell window is located above the door on the north elevation and there is a six-over-six single-hung sash attic window in the gable of the west elevation.

The roof is standing-seam metal. It is moderately sloped and front-gabled with projecting eaves and a boxed cornice above a wide cornice board on the north and west elevations. The shed addition on the south has only a projecting eave. A four-bay porch with a tar paper shed roof has square chamfered

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posts and extends three fourths of the way across the north side of the west elevation. A brick interior chimney with a stone base rises on the east end of the north elevation, however, architectural evidence indicates that it was originally an exterior chimney built for the tavern which abuts the store. When the store was remodeled in the early 1900s, the chimney was incorporated into that structure.

The store interior consists of one rectangular room, except for an enclosed attic stairwell that juts out into the room in the northeast corner. Paneled in painted plywood and lined on three walls with shelves, the store contains original counters still in place. Much of the original equipment and goods are also still in place. On the south wall two doors lead into the shed-roofed addition. Architectural evidence in the three rooms found there indicates that they were all built at different times. The window in the middle room was originally a door and it appears that this room was part of the 1700s house. The door frame into this room shows several hinge markings on both sides of the frame and the door has a carved keyhole and thumb latch. In the northeast corner of the store is a board-and-batten door with HL hinges and wrought nails that leads to an enclosed stairwell to the attic. This area shows signs of being reworked. On the east wall of the attic the outline for the roof of the earlier building can be seen. The roof for the attic also covers a window and part of the chimney for the tavern indicating that this roof was put on after the tavern was constructed. The plate and mortise for the posts of the earlier house can be seen under the floor boards of the attic.

On the south end of the east wall is a doorway and short hallway that leads into the tavern.

TAVERN

The tavern section of the building is a two-story, rectangular, side-gable-roofed structure that faces south. The building sits on a stone foundation with a crawl space. There are eight bays on the first level. All the windows have wooden molded trim and wooden sills. The two windows on the north elevation and two on the east end of the south elevation are nine-over-six single-hung sash. The window on the west end of the south elevation is six-over-six single-hung sash. Metal bars cover all the windows on this level of the south elevation and the west window on the north elevation. The bars were added in the early twentieth century. A four-over-four single-hung sash window is found abutting the chimney on the east elevation and a matching window is enclosed in the east wing addition. The door on the south elevation is asymmetrically placed and wooden-and-glass paneled. The two wooden and four glass panels are recessed. The wooden six-flat-paneled door on the north elevation is located in the center of the wall.

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The five windows on the second level of the north and south elevations are six-over-six single-hung sash with wooden molded trim and wooden sills. Two windows on the east elevation are symmetrically placed between the chimneys and are the same as the window on the first level of this elevation. Identical windows to these are found on the attic level of the east and west elevations. The one door on the second level is wooden with four recessed panels and located directly above the door found on the first level of the south elevation.

The roof is standing-seam metal, side-gabled and has a steeper pitch than the store. It has projecting eaves and a boxed cornice on the north elevation. On the south elevation the roof extends to include a second-story porch. There are two porches. The single-story porch on the north elevation is a later addition and asymmetrically placed. It sits on stone piers, has three symmetrically placed bays with triple-bracketed, square, chamfered posts and a hipped standing-seam metal roof. On the south elevation the two-story porch extends across the entire elevation, sits on a concrete foundation, has five asymmetrically placed bays with t-shaped posts on both levels and a balustrade on the second level. Architectural evidence indicates that originally there was also a balustrade on the first level. A bench seat with curved supports runs the length of the porch just under the windows on the first level. There are four chimneys. Three are gable-end exterior chimneys and the fourth is an interior chimney. Only the exterior chimney on the south end of the east wall is fully exposed. The other two are partially enclosed in the store and kitchen wing additions. Each has a stone base and rises in stretcher-bond brick with two shoulders. The interior chimney for the tavern was originally the exterior stone chimney for the eighteenth-century house but a brick stack was added and the structure was incorporated inside the tavern walls when that building was constructed. Evidence for this can be seen in the attic of the store and in the interior of the tavern.

The interior of the tavern has a center hall, going north to south with a stairwell on the northeast corner, and four rooms. A twentieth-century remodeling enclosed the base of the stairwell. Architectural evidence suggests that originally there a wall which extended east to west across the middle of the present asymmetrical hall and divided the first level into separate north and south rooms with no connecting door. There is also evidence that the two rooms on each side of the wall opened into each other and there was no hall. The hall was created when new walls were constructed to separate the two rooms. All the spaces on both levels retain the original floors, wide baseboards, wide horizontal board wainscoting, chair rails, mantels and decorative trim. The walls are plastered and, while some of the walls were added at a later date, they are original. There is some evidence that at least one of the rooms retains the original paint. Each of the rooms except the north and southwest rooms on the second level has a fireplace and decorative mantel. Originally there was a stairwell in

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the northeast corner of the southwest room that led to the second level. Since architectural evidence suggests that there was the same separation of space on the second level this stairwell would be necessary to reach that area. This division would be consistent with the separation of public and private spaces in a tavern. There are four rooms on the second level. The stairwell divides the two rooms on the north side of the building. There has been some twentieth-century remodeling at the entrance to the northwest room and a door added to the wall of the southwest room to provide access to that side of the building.

KITCHEN WING

The kitchen wing is a one-story, rectangular building with side gables facing south. It sits on a stone foundation and has four symmetrically placed bays on the south elevation and three asymmetrically placed bays on the north elevation. The windows on the south elevation are square with six lights and have wooden sills and frames. On the north elevation there are two windows on the west end of the wing. One is six-over-six single-hung sash and the other is a square opening with the glass missing and is boarded up from the inside. There are two boarded-up windows on either side of the chimney on the attic level of the east elevation. Two doors on the south elevation and the one on the north elevation are symmetrically placed and consist of vertical beaded boards, wooden sills and no lintels. Those on the south elevation have thumb latches and porcelain knobs. There is no evidence of a latch on the north door, however there is a keyhole.

The moderately sloped roof is standing-seam metal and side-gabled with extended eaves and boxed cornices. An exterior stone chimney with shoulders and a brick stack rises on the east elevation.

Architectural evidence indicates that this wing was constructed to connect the old kitchen to the tavern sometime in the mid-1800s and is reached by a doorway on the east wall of the northeast room of the tavern. The west wall of this wing is the original outside wall of the tavern and includes the base of one of the tavern's chimneys. The other three walls have baseboards, wainscoting and chair rail. A door on the south end of the east wall leads to the old kitchen. The floors, north, east and south walls as well as the windows and doors in the kitchen appear to be original. The enclosed stairwell in the northeast corner was a later addition and the large fireplace on the east wall has recently been rebuilt.

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BLACKSMITH SHOP

The blacksmith shop is a wooden one-story, rectangular, front-gable-roofed building that faces south. The structure sits on a concrete foundation and was rebuilt in the 1920s when the original building burned down. It has a standing-seam metal roof as does the shed-roofed porch, which extends along the entire south elevation.

This building is one room with no covering on the walls or ceiling. The floor is concrete. Some of the blacksmithing equipment is still in place.

On the south side of the Fredericksburg Road are two residences and a store. The largest structure is the home of the Bruce family and is the only structure currently occupied. A short distance to the east is the feed store and another residence that was once used as a school and now is in disrepair. Both the Bruce home and the feed store have later additions.

BRUCE HOUSE

The Bruce house is a wooden, two-story, cross-gable-roofed building that faces north. When the house was built in 1870 it was a two-story I-house with a store addition on the west end. The store was torn down in the 1920's when the business was moved across the street. Ghosts of that structure can still be seen on the chimney wall. Sometime before the turn of the twentieth-century a cross-gable-roofed wing was added to the south elevation. There is a one-story addition on the south end of the cross gable wing and another on the east end of the original house. The house sits on a stone foundation. There are four bays on the north elevation, seven on the east elevation, four on the south elevations and four on the west elevation. All the windows on all levels of the original structure have two-over-two sashes including those on the one-story addition. Those on the later wing have all six-over-six sashes. There are five doors. The one on the north elevation is wood-and-glass paneled and the rest are wood-paneled. The door on the north end of the west elevation has a rectangular single-light transom.

The roof is standing-seam metal with projecting eaves. Curved show rafters can be seen under the eaves of the cross-gabled addition. There are three porches. A four-bay shed-roofed porch extends across the north elevation of the original house. On the east elevation there is a one-bay two-story porch that has been enclosed on the second level. The other porch on this elevation has been screened in. There are two end chimneys on the east and west elevations of the older house and a

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stove chimney in the center of the cross-gabled wing.

The interior of the original section of the house appears to be relatively unchanged. The walls are plaster with no wainscoting. There are fireplaces with decorative mantels in the two rooms. The wood-paneled doors and door trim with corner blocks are original. The wing addition is reached by two steps up and appears to have been built to accommodate dining, kitchen and storage facilities and has changed little.

FEED STORE

The feed store is a wooden, 1 ½-story, rectangular, side-gable-roofed building that faces north. The original section of the structure on the east end was probably built in the early-nineteenth-century and an addition was added to the west end before the middle of the century and is indicated by a break in the siding. The building sits on a raised stone foundation, which has three openings to a shallow cellar under the original section. A window on the east end of this level has wooden vertical bars and the one on the west end is obscured by the stairs to the porch. An opening between the windows appears to be a doorway, however the door is missing. On the first level there are five bays on the north elevation, and none on the west, south or east elevations. There are three windows on the north elevation; two on the original section and one on the addition. The one on the east end of the building has six-over-six single-hung sashes and the two on the west end are boarded up. All windows have wooden sills and molded trim. Two doors on this level are placed between the windows on the original section. The door on the east end consists of vertical boards and the double door on the west end has horizontal beaded boards and strap hinges. This door leads into the main section of the store. The other door leads into an office/living space. There is a square, four-light window on the ½-story level of the west elevation just under the gable. Square windows with wooden interior shutters are found on either side of the chimney on the ½-story level of the east elevation. A wooden door for the ½-story can be seen on the west elevation. This was probably used as a loading door for the storage area.

The roof is moderately sloped standing-seam metal with projecting eaves and a boxed cornice. A two-bay porch with a standing-seam metal shed roof has posts that are plain and wire nails indicate this is a replacement porch. On the east elevation there is a standing end chimney with a shoulder that is enclosed on the first floor by siding that was added and overlapped to make it appear as though the store was joined to the adjacent house. There is a vertical board door in the siding giving access to the chimney. The same enclosure is found on the south elevation however the house is deeper on this

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side and the siding does not overlap.

The interior of the feed store contains two rooms on each level consisting of a small living/office space on the east ends and a large open rectangular room on the west ends. On the first level remains of beaded board wood paneling can be seen on the north, east and south walls of the original section of the large room and remnants of chair rail and plaster can be seen on the north, south and west walls of the later addition on the west end. The large room on the 1/2-story level has evidence of a beaded base board on the original section. A wooden stair on the east wall of the large room gives access to the 1/2-story. The two small office/living spaces have plaster walls with chair rail and a fireplace with mantel. The walls of this space on the second level are covered with Civil War graffiti. There is also graffiti on the south wall of the west addition on the first floor.

HOUSE/SCHOOL

The house/school is at present a wooden, square, two-story, side-gable-roofed house that faces north. The building sits on a stone foundation. Originally there was a kitchen wing on the east side, however the room and chimney collapsed years ago and were removed and a new east wall was constructed. Evidence of the stone foundation for this room can still be seen. The rest of the house is in very poor condition and many parts are missing. There are three symmetrically placed bays on the north and south elevations, one bay on the east elevation and none on the west elevation. The two windows on the east and west elevations are missing glass and most of their trim. Remnants of wooden shutters can be seen. The wooden vertical-board doors on the north and east elevations are off their hinges and propped in the doorways as is the wood-paneled door on the south elevation. The two windows on the second level of the north elevation are six-over-six single-hung sash. Two windows on this level of the south elevation are missing glass and some framing. There are two four-light windows on the attic level of the east elevation.

The roof is moderately sloped standing-seam metal with boxed cornices. There is evidence of a previous porch. The interior of the house is in great disrepair and has been used for hay storage. The first level contains one room while two rooms are on the second level. The walls are plastered above horizontal board wainscoting and a chair rail. Originally there was a fireplace on the east wall of both levels but the chimney collapsed and the wall was rebuilt in the mid-twentieth-century. There are two side-by-side glass-fronted cabinets on the south end of the west wall which extend outside the walls of the house. An enclosed stairwell extends to the second level on the north end of the wall. Originally the stairwell was open. There is a small hallway and an enclosed stair to the attic on the

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second level.

AGRICULTURAL BUILDINGS

The agricultural buildings are grouped together in several fields north and south of the other buildings. North of the blacksmith shop at the end of another farm lane is a cow shed, corncrib and cow barn. The cow shed and corncrib are twentieth-century structures, however the center of the cow barn dates to the 1880s. The cow shed is open on the front, has three bays and a standing-seam metal shed roof and faces southwest. The corncrib sits on stone pillars, has shed additions on each side, a standing-seam metal roof and faces south. The cow barn is behind the corncrib, has a stone foundation, shed additions on the east and west sides, a standing-seam metal roof and faces south. The cow barn was enlarged in the twentieth century and the roof line for the earlier barn can be seen on the south elevation. Also in the interior the middle section of the barn has mortise-and-tenon joints and cut nails. In another field east of these structures is a larger dairy barn with a concrete foundation and silo, and gambrel standing-seam metal roof. The fields are leased and only a few of the buildings are occasionally used.

The rest of the agricultural buildings are located to the south of the Bruce house behind a fence. Included in this group are two poultry houses, a corncrib, a cow barn with silo and a small chicken coop. These structures are all wooden and were built in the twentieth-century with the exception of the corncrib which dates from the mid-1800s. The two poultry houses are located just to the south of the fence in an east-west line. Both buildings are identical, however the one on the east was constructed of reused lumber and appears to be an older building. The buildings have shed roofs and face south. To the south of the east poultry house is a cow barn with a silo. The barn sits on a stone foundation and shows some later additions. It has a standing-seam metal roof and faces west. Just to the south of the barn sits a small chicken coop that is in disrepair. The corncrib is located to the west of the cow barn. It is of post-and-beam construction with hewn timbers. The roof boards have numerous nail holes for previous wooden shakes and there is a hand forged latch on the door. The roof is standing-seam metal and the building faces west. Located just southwest of the corncrib are the remains of a granary which has just recently collapsed. The buildings are all unused at the present time.

The James City buildings all retain much of their original integrity and are examples of the ongoing history of the property.

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8. Statement of Significance

The James City Historic District is historically and architecturally significant as an example of a community that remains a time capsule of late-eighteenth-, nineteenth-, and early-twentieth-century domestic, commercial and agricultural structures. The complex consists of a ca. 1796 house and kitchen later incorporated into a tavern and early-nineteenth-century store, an early-nineteenth-century house and store, an 1870 dwelling, a blacksmith shop, and several early-twentieth-century agricultural buildings. Built along what was the main road from Fredericksburg to Madison County, the complex served as a stop for stagecoach travelers and a place for business. In 1810 James City became the site of the second post office in Madison County and in 1822 Daniel James obtained a license to operate an ordinary in his home. During the second half of the nineteenth century new roads were built and the Fredericksburg Road went into decline and eventually became part of the farmland. The buildings of the community, however, remained virtually intact. The structures that were built after that time were mostly agricultural and reflect the change in the status of the community. Most of the remaining buildings are those that were present when James City was a viable community which lasted until the James City store closed in the 1980s.

Historical Background

James City had its beginnings in 1796 when Daniel James began acquiring property in Madison County. That year he bought 218 acres from Benjamin J. Roberts for £654 and probably built a house on the property soon thereafter. The land was described as, "lying on the south side of Crooked run."¹ James began purchasing adjoining land until 1814 by which time he had assembled 538 acres.² The Fredericksburg Road, also known as the Kirtley Road, ran through his property and the present-day James City buildings are located on either side of that road, now a farm lane. The Fredericksburg Road was the main artery connecting the Rappahannock River port town with the Three Notched Road area (Albemarle County) and probably dated from the early 1730s, however no records survive prior to 1742.³ Local tradition indicates that this road was an early stagecoach route. By 1810 the James City Post Office was established as the second post office in the county and Daniel James was the first postmaster. In 1822 James obtained a license to keep an ordinary at his house in Madison County.⁴ The Gazetteer of Virginia reported in 1836,

James City P.O. 87 ms from W. and 105 from R. Situated on Crooked run on the north side of Thoroughfare mountain nine miles distant from Madison and Culpeper

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court houses on the line which divides the two counties of Culpeper and Madison. It contains one large well kept tavern, called Madison Inn, one Mercantile store, one boot and shoe factory, a tailor, blacksmith shop and a merchant mill--There is a Baptist house of Worship in the vicinity. Population 50.⁴

Land tax records for an 1817 assessment "under an act of assembly for dividing into districts," lists the value for buildings owned by Daniel James at \$2300. A note in the margin mentions \$300 for two mills, and \$2000 for houses, etc.⁵ By 1820 this value goes up to \$2500. In 1851 the value rises to \$3000 but by 1857 it drops back to \$2500 and does not change until the property is broken up in 1870.⁶ The first buildings that can be documented are two late-eighteenth-century structures that have been incorporated into a later building. One was a one-story, frame and weatherboard building with a stone-walled cellar and stone end chimney. The other was an early kitchen with a large stone fireplace. While only glimpses of the first building can be seen on attic walls and under floor boards, the kitchen remains much like it was when it was built. Original wooden locks and latches, floors, windows, doors, stairs and framing remain. It was attached to the tavern by a wing built sometime before 1850.

Because of the high value for buildings on the land tax records it would appear that the tavern was built sometime before 1817. Architectural evidence supports this. Basic electricity is the only modernization. Here again the interior retains most its original parts. There is even evidence of original paint in one of the rooms. A few walls and doors have been moved or added to make the building a single living space probably after it ceased to be used as a tavern, but this was all done during the nineteenth century. It appears that some of the original cladding is still attached.

In 1839 Daniel James sold the James City property to Nathaniel Tatum for \$6000.⁷ In 1840 the name of the post office was changed to Leon. However the property still continued to be referred to as James City. The value for buildings listed in the land tax records is \$2500 until 1851 when the value rises to \$3000. In 1857 the value drops back to \$2500 and remains the same until the property is broken up and sold after Tatum's death in 1870. Since stagecoach travel went into decline when the railroads were becoming established it is most likely that the tavern ceased operation during his tenure and became a living space.

The feed store and house/school were probably built at the same time, though the store has fared better than the house. The house/school is literally coming apart at the seams and will not last much

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longer. A room on the second floor of the feed store has Civil War graffiti on all four walls.

The Civil War touched James City several times. In a report of Brig. Gen. George D. Bayard, U.S. Army, concerning a reconnaissance to James City and Madison Courthouse on July 22-24, 1862, he states, "I have the honor to report that on the evening of the 22d I left here with General Hatch, going as far as James City that night."⁸ Between the 8th and 11th of October 1863 there was a skirmish involving the city. Reports of several officers mention the action. Brig. Gen. Judson Kilpatrick, U.S. Army commanding Third Cavalry Division was headquartered near James City, and on the 10th reported, "I at once ordered General Davies to cross Crooked Run, and take up position at James City, and General Custer to send two regiments and section of artillery, to take up position to the left of James City, and to hold the road passing at the base of the mountain."⁹ Later that day he reported, "General Custer is at James City. --the enemy made, at sundown, several vigorous attacks on General Custer and General Davies' position, but were each time repulsed." Maj. Gen. J. E. B. Stuart also reported on the action of the 10th,

The fleeing army was pursued to James City, where we encountered the main body of the enemy, subsequently ascertained to consist of about two brigades of Kilpatrick's division of cavalry, French's division of infantry, and six pieces of artillery. At our approach they retired from the village to a strong position on the hills overlooking it near Bethel Church and drew up in line of battle, with their artillery judiciously posted to receive us. . . .

I regret very much to be compelled to bear witness to the sufferings of the unfortunate inhabitants of James City, who were thus brought between two fires, but from the peculiarity of the ground this could not be avoided.¹⁰

Local history indicates that several local structures sustained damage or were burned down and never rebuilt. There is no apparent war damage on any of the remaining buildings.

After Tatum died the property was divided and sold in several parcels. James Shotwell bought 328 acres from the Tatum estate.¹¹ Ephraim Weaver purchased 58 ½ acres from John Tatum, an executor of Nathaniel's estate.¹² Mrs. Weaver was a half-sister to James Shotwell who was the father of Mrs. S. M. Bruce. S.M. Bruce acquired both the Shotwell and Weaver properties and put James City

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back together under one owner. James Shotwell built a house on his property, the house the Bruce family resides in today. It is the latest constructed building in the group along the old road. Originally there was a store on the west elevation of the house but that was torn down in the 1920s after the business was moved across the street to the west wing of the tavern building. The house has had a few additions, but no major remodeling. Almost all of the agricultural buildings have been built in the twentieth century with the exception of a corncrib on the south side of the house and part of a barn in a field north of the house. As the commerce moved out of the buildings in town and the town slowly died, agriculture took over and the James City property continued as a farming community. Finally in the 1980s the Bruce store closed and the family stopped farming, leaving James City stopped in time.

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1. Madison County Deed Book 2 pg. 42, 21 February 1796, Madison County Courthouse, Madison, VA.
 2. Ibid., 4 pgs. 104-05, 26 June 1805; 4 pg. 166, 28 November 1805; 5 pgs. 433-34, 4 August 1814.
 4. Madison County Will Book 4 pg. 144, 23 May 1822, Madison County Courthouse, Madison County, VA.
 5. Joseph Martin, Gazetteer of Virginia and District of Columbia (Charlottesville: Published by Joseph Martin, Mosely and Topkins, Printer, 1836), pg. 225.
 5. Madison County Land Tax Records, 1817, Madison County Courthouse, Madison, VA.
 6. Ibid., 1820-1870.
 7. Madison County Deed Book 14 pg. 473, 13 September 1839, Madison County Courthouse, Madison, VA.
 8. Lieut. Col. Robert N. Scott, ed., The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies series I, v. XII, part II (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1885), report of Brig. Gen. George D. Bayard, U.S. Army, pg. 101.

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9. Lieut. Col. Robert N. Scott, ed., The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies series I, vXXIX, part I (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1890), report of Brig. Gen. Judson Kilpatrick, U.S. Army, Commanding Third Cavalry Division, pg.380.

10. Ibid., report of Maj. Gen. J. E. B. Stuart, C.S. Army, Commanding Cavalry Corp., pg. 440.

11. Madison County Deed Book 24 pg. 426, 14 June 1870, Madison County Courthouse, Madison, VA.

12. Ibid., 26, pg.371, 4 October 1872.

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Pawlett, Nathaniel Mason & Lay, K. Edward Historic Roads of Virginia, Early road Location: Key to Discovering Historic Resources. Charlottesville, Va.: VA Highway and Transportation Research Council, May 1980.

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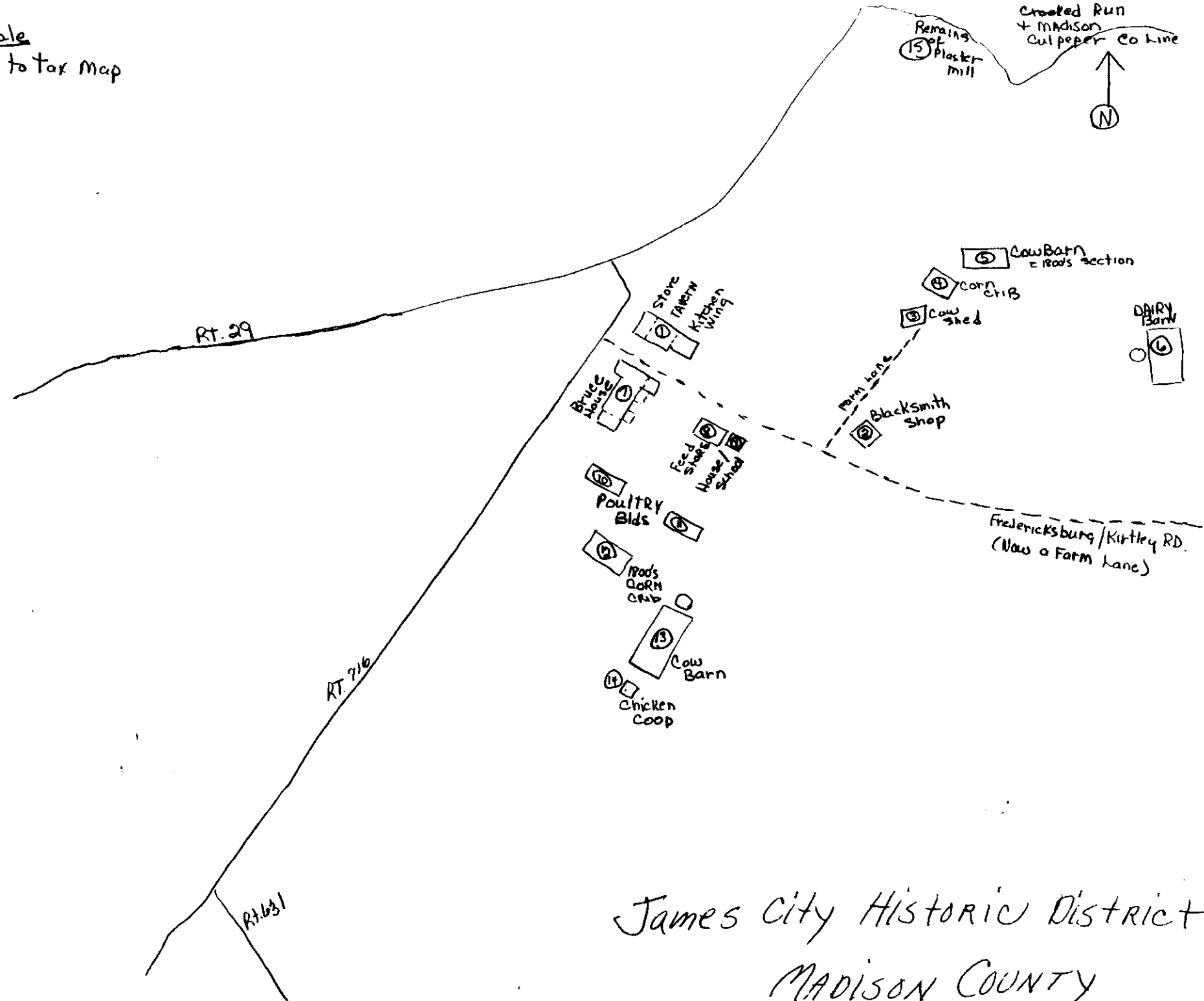
Verbal Boundary Description: The nominated property comprises approximately 280 acres. It is recorded on the Madison County tax office plats as lots 45 and 47. There are two parts to each lot, however only the sections east of state U.S. Routes 29 and State Routes 716 and 631 are being nominated.

Boundary Justification: the district boundaries include the main part of the property that David James owned when he founded James City.

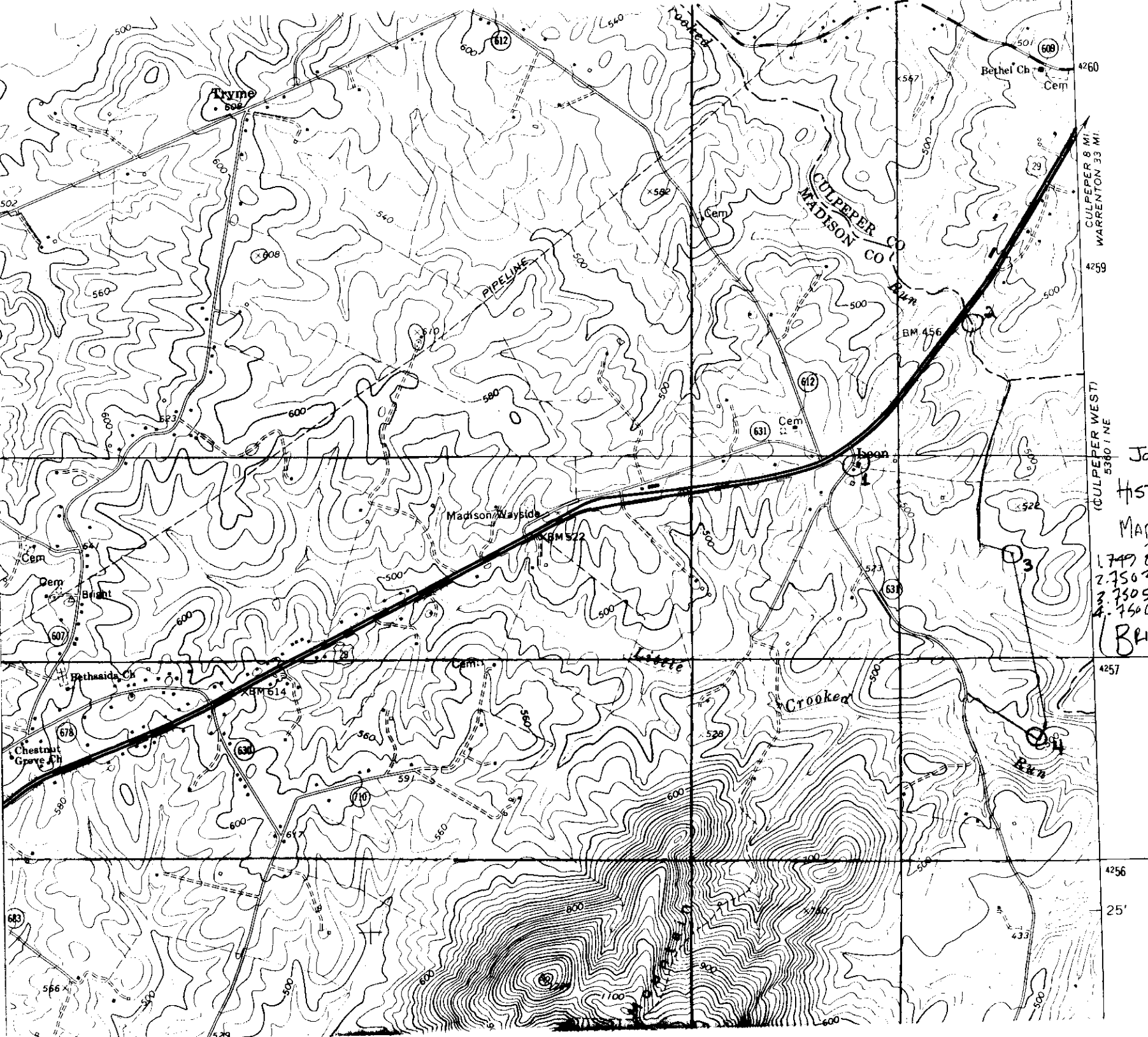


James City Historic District
MADISON COUNTY

Not to Scale
#s Key to Tax Map



James City Historic District
MADISON COUNTY



James City/Leon
HISTORIC DISTRICT

MADISON CO., VA

1. 749 840 / 425 7980 ZONE
2. 750 360 / 425 8660 17
3. 750 560 / 425 7540
4. 750 680 / 425 6020
(BRIGHTWOOD)
4257 QUAD

4257 QUAD